

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS eNEWSLETTER



Prevent



Protect



Respond



Recover

October 2013 Issue



The 1811 – 1812 New Madrid “mega quakes” were so powerful they altered the topography of Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. In a sparsely populated area, frightened residents witnessed landslides, sand blows, and raised sunken lands. Most evident was the formation of Tennessee’s Reelfoot Lake.

Today, a major quake in Tennessee would be catastrophic due to our dense population and the destruction of the infrastructure of transportation, communication, and fuel supply. According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, it is estimated that 560,000 citizens would be sheltered, 750,000 would be without power, 34,000 would be injured, 370 buildings damaged, and 1,200 bridges damaged if a major quake occurs here. **Are you ready to survive?** The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., invites you to join millions of Americans as they practice “**DROP, COVER, HOLD**” during the Great Central U.S. “Shake Out!” on October 17. There are 6 steps to prepare, survive, and recover from an earthquake. They include:

To Prepare Before the Earthquake:

1. Secure your home: Install latches on cabinets. Secure water heater with strapping tape. Bolt down bookcases. Brace light fixtures. Move breakables to lower cabinets. Make a path from every room through a window and a door. Trim hazardous tree limbs.
2. Make a plan to meet family outside the home after the quake. Know how to shut off utilities. Have a communications plan to contact an out of state relative if you get separated from loved ones.
3. Create a kit for home, work and auto to sustain you, your pets and co-workers for seven days.

To Survive the Earthquake

4. DROP, COVER and HOLD on! Have personal protective equipment available to put on (helmet, gloves, goggles, boots, mask, reflective vest, flashlight, metal whistle).

To Recover after the Earthquake

5. Check for injuries and assess the damage. Apply first-aid to those around you.
6. Check on your friends and neighbors. Be a buddy!

The “Shake Out” is supported by the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, TEMA, FEMA, and the U.S. Geological Survey. To register, please visit www.shakeout.org.



TEMA EOC Training



Photo Caption: Left: TEMA Area Coordinators, Mike Cavdil and Danny Daniel, with Eugene Jones (Shelby County Office of Preparedness), and Erin Myer. Not pictured was TEMA Area Coordinator Mark Hollomon.

On September 17, 2013, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) presented “Emergency Operations Center” training at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. Individuals who attended were from Germantown, Lakeland, Memphis, Collierville, and Bartlett. Some of the key points of this day long presentation included what an emergency operations center (EOC) is and why it is important for those who are able to make key decisions to be able to gather together and coordinate the response after a disaster. It is vital for those who can allocate resources to be able to communicate with each other, either in person, meet in the Mobile EOC, or virtual EOC.

The powers of the governor to declare a “state of emergency” was explained. The National Response Framework was discussed and why it helps emergency managers respond effectively to any incident. All local EOC’s are lead according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The relationship between the county EOC, which handles local priorities, and the state EOC, which coordinates federal resources and state-to-state mutual aid agreements, was explained as well.

The levels of activation for an EOC were explained. They include:

- 5 “Normal”
- 4 “Elevated”
- 3 “Declaration – State of Emergency”
- 2 “Major Disaster”
- 1 “Catastrophic” (There has never been level 1 activation in Tennessee.)

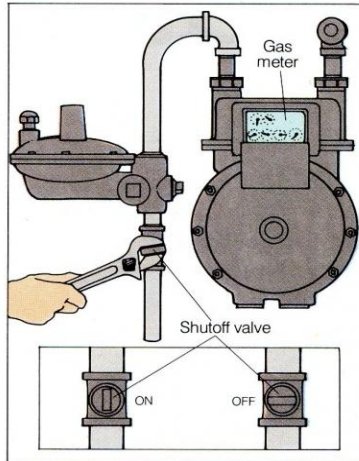
Emergency Support Functions or ESF’s, where the Emergency Services Coordinators (ESC’s) sit in the EOC, were explained. Shelby County has 18 ESF’s in its EOC.

Most interesting was a discussion regarding the time period when Shelby County had three open declarations at one time. The “life cycle of a disaster” means that there is no stop and start to a disaster and recovery, but more of a circle that overlaps.

After hearing the compliments from the TEMA instructors about the new Shelby County Emergency Operations Center regarding the Mondo boards, the GIS mapping equipment, and the WEB EOC software, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director, Bob Nations, Jr., addressed the group at the end of the session. He said, “We are proud of our new EOC, the central point for disaster coordination in Shelby County. All emergency missions will come through here. It is a system designed to be an umbrella...supportive... and we will build out on that expectation. We want to support everyone in getting the training in how to use it effectively. However, I hope to retire from Shelby County not having used it!”

UHH! What's that Smell?

GAS SHUTOFF VALVE



There has been a disaster....a tornado, earthquake, or explosion in your neighborhood. As you enter your home you smell something foul.....rotten eggs, burnt rubber? You may hear a hissing noise. You may have a gas leak! What do you do?

Immediately, back out of the house without turning on or off any lights. Do not open or close the garage door. Do not light a match! Grab a flashlight, your cell phone, and your crescent wrench and head outside to the gas meter. Turn off your meter and any neighbors' meters within reach (with their prior permission). The valve is closed when the two holes are lined up. With your cell phone, call and report the issue to Memphis Light, Gas and Water. Stay outside. Leave the gas valve in the "off" position and stay away from the area until MLGW has a chance to investigate and give you the all clear to return home.

Plan ahead for such events and know how to shut off your utilities. First, find out where your gas meter is located. Have a tool handy, such as a wrench or 4-in-1, and know how to use it. Make an agreement with neighbors that you will help each other out and turn off each other's gas meters if an emergency arises.

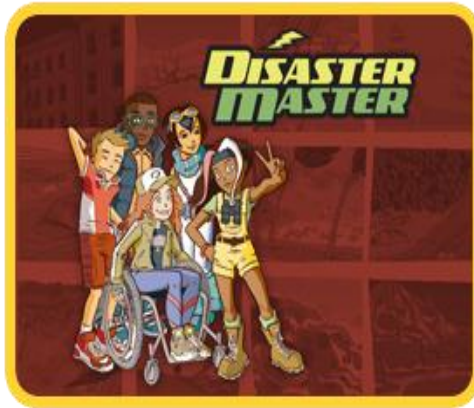
The foul smell is ethyl mercaptan - an additive to natural gas so that it is easy to detect a leak.

4-in-1 Emergency Tool



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness urges citizens to have the right tool(s) for the job during an emergency. This handy 4-in-1 tool was created for multiple jobs. It can turn off your gas or water in an emergency. It can pry open a door or break a window and dig through debris. It is 5 inches wide x 11 inches tall, and 1 inch thick, and made from heated alloy. The tool is sturdy and easy to use, but small enough to fit into any disaster kit. The average price is about \$10. Available at most camping and hardware stores and can be purchased through Amazon.

Disaster Master! Ready Kids!



Join your teens in this exciting interactive game called “Disaster Master” as 5 teenage friends learn about preparedness together! Follow them as they have adventures in safety!

There are seven levels you can navigate through. They include: Wildfire, Tornado, Hurricane, Home fires, Winter Storms, Earthquake, and Thunderstorms and Lightning.

As the teens are put to the test during these situations, you can help them answer the questions on shelter-in-place and evacuation and knowing what to do when faced with an emergency. The more correct answers, the more points you earn! To find out more about our Heroes, please visit: www.fema.gov/kids.



October 6 -12, 2013 is “Fire Prevention Week!” The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) is aiming their message of preventing kitchen fires to the kids.

The “Kids in the Kitchen” campaign asks all our young people to help Mom and Dad in the kitchen as they learn about kitchen safety. The “kid-free” zone is the space no children should be allowed for safety.

The four basic kitchen rules are:

- Stay at least 3 feet from the stove
- A grown-up should decide when you are old enough to use a stove or microwave
- Stay away from things that get hot
- Remind grown-u[s] to keep things that can burn away from the stovetop.

The safety page divides the age groups into what kitchen chores are safe for their age. For example from age 3 -5 children can get ingredients out of the fridge, wash fruits and vegetables and lick the cake batter off of a spoon. And from 6 – 8 years, children can set the table, stir ingredients in a bowl and open packages.

Visit www.sparky.org for a video message from Sparky and more fun and safety tips!

Preparedness Outreach



Photo Caption: September 3, 2013, citizens from the Memphis Police Department Citizens Academy at Airways Station Precinct welcomed the Shelby County Office of Preparedness

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is participating in the annual Memphis Police Department's Citizens Academy. Once a week, agency representatives speak to a group of citizens at each of the nine precincts. The citizens are given an overview of the function of the Office of Preparedness as well as reminded what the threats and hazards are here in Shelby County. The lecture also includes the five steps for citizens to become prepared for disasters. All are given a variety of colorful FEMA brochures, the LEPC Shelter-in-Place brochure, a FEMA Hazard Hunt map, a Citizen Corps bag, cup and pencil, and a large plastic HELP / OK sign for their home.

Other topics in this 9-week MPD Citizen's Academy program include presentations from Crime Stoppers, the FBI, the Organized Crime Unit, Blue Crush, Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Property and Evidence, GIB / Auto Theft, and the Gang Unit.

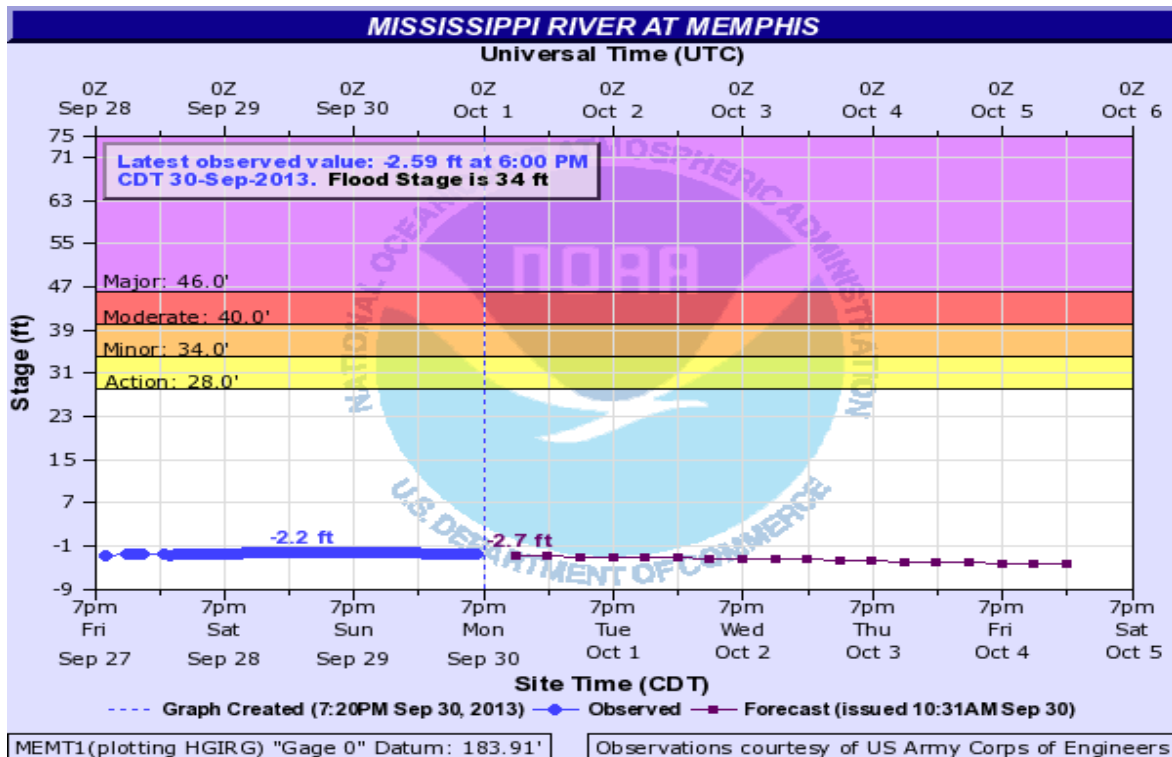


Photo Caption: Citizens from the South Main Precinct were visited by the Shelby County Office of Preparedness on September 24, 2013

Mississippi River at Memphis



Shelby County has enjoyed a “no-flood” summer as evidenced by sand bars emerging on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River in downtown Memphis. As of October 1, 2013, in the area surrounding the Mississippi River at Memphis, there are 322 gauges recording water levels with 0 in the flood range. The stage is -2.7 feet. Flood stage is 34 feet.



Lakeland Communications Station



Photo Caption: Lakeland City Hall Emergency Management Director, Claude Talford, right, with Alexander Hilliard, left, at Lakeland City Hall, near the radio antenna and outdoor warning siren

The City of Lakeland now has a communications back-up plan in the case of a catastrophic disaster.

Lakeland Emergency Management Director, Claude Talford, with the assistance of Alexander Hilliard, a well-known, multi-rated amateur radio operator, has created a two-desk ham radio station, with a private entrance, at Lakeland City Hall. VHF and UHF radios, with a Kenwood 480 - 200 watt output antenna tuner, are aided by antennas attached to a 100 foot tower that currently holds the outdoor warning siren on the Lakeland City Hall grounds. The set up includes headsets for the radio operators and “D Star” technology with a sound card device that can be hooked up to a laptop computer to transmit data over the internet if needed. Director Talford worked with Hilliard for over a year to ensure the town of Lakeland is able to communicate effectively should a major disaster occur.

According to Talford, the vital information that might be communicated over ham radios immediately after a disaster if communications are malfunctioning would include damage assessment reports, number and location of injuries and fatalities, and what resources are needed in the Lakeland area.

Talford reminds the public that the first 72 hours after a disaster, communities and citizens may be on their own until outside agencies, such as FEMA, can mobilize and reach the affected area.

Hilliard commented that Lakeland City Hall is “an ideal spot” for an amateur radio station because of its unique position on Highway 70, away from major bridges that may fail during a disaster. Lakeland could also be a convenient POD or “point of distribution” if medications are to be distributed.

The Lakeland ham radios will be tested regularly. Director Talford is inviting all ham radio operators who live in the Lakeland area to get involved to create a team of operators who can assist if the ham radio station needs to be activated.

Weather Alert For Hard of Hearing



Those who are deaf or hard of hearing now have a way to get weather and emergency alerts. This off-the-shelf NOAA All-Hazards radio, made by Midland, is part of the Silent Call series. It has a large digital front panel display and the SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) feature so it can be programmed for Shelby County and any other surrounding counties if needed.

This radio can be adapted with non-verbal alert features to get the attention of the user that includes a flashing strobe light, a pillow shaker / vibrator, or a siren. It is powered by an AC adaptor with a battery back-up and is Public Alert Certified. Any hazardous events such as severe weather or a chemical or biological accident that has been assigned a code by the NOAA National Weather Radio system can be communicated through this radio. When the Weather Forecast Office sends the code out to the NWR transmitters, the warnings are received by all NWR SAME receivers – sounding an alarm or writing a message such as TORNADO. The warning can activate any external device connected to the NWR.

The prices for these radios are similar to other NOAA All-Hazard weather radios and can be purchased most locations that sell weather radios.

Preparedness Training Opportunities:

Hazmat Awareness Course (TEMA): October 16, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Shelby County EOC, 1075 Mullins Station Road, Room C-113. Free. No prerequisites. Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to print off registration form. Fax form to: 901.222.6714.

Technician Amateur (Ham) Radio Class: Mondays, November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2 and 9, 2013, 6:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The Delta Amateur Radio Club is offering entry-level ham radio Technician license class at EMHC ambulance company's offices on Appling Farms Parkway. Free. The FCC exam will be offered on the 5th night of class. The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Second Edition is \$29.95. The ARRL FCC exam is \$15. **Pre-registration is required.** Email name, email address and cellphone number to wa4ovo@arrl.net or to Joe Lowenthal at 628-4318.

Other resources: Delta Amateur Radio Club website: www.deltaclub.org

American Radio Relay League website: www.arrl.org

Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders: December 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Desoto County EOC, 830 Old Highway 51 North, Nesbit, MS. Contact: Captain Lee A. Calvi or call 662.469.8016 for more information.

CERT: Community Emergency Response Team Training



Photo Caption: CERT students on the fire field at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, September 14, 2013. Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator, standing, 2nd row, 4th from left.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT: 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Two consecutive Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both days must be completed in order to graduate. Open classes include: October 5 and 12 or November 2 and 9. Pre-registration is required. Email Eugene Jones at: Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov.



Photo Caption: CERT students learn how to stop bleeding with pressure, dressing and a bandage during Medical First Aid.

Bartlett CERT: 5868 Stage Road, Bartlett Station Municipal Center, Community Room A, Bartlett, TN 38135. Email Laura Jenkins at: ljenkins@cityofbartlett.org.

CERTPlus: Citizens For CERT. New CERT program incorporated in Tennessee offering CERT training by all-volunteer, certified instructors. Call Lee Race at 901.692.3889.

Collierville CERT: 1251 Peterson Lake, Collierville, TN. Email Scott Sumner at: ssumner@ci.collierville.tn.us or call 901.457.2400.

Germantown CERT: Fire Station #4, 3031 Forrest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN. Email Sherry Rhea at: srhea@germantown-tn.gov.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Resources:

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us
901.515.2525

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook-shelby-county-citizens-corps>

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry
Email: Kimberlyn Boulter @ Kimberlyn.boulter@shelbycountyttn.gov or visit www.staysafeshelby.us

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association : www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information: CERI www.ceri.memphis.edu

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Disability Preparedness: www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness

Disaster Assistance: www.disasterassistance.gov
1.800.621.FEMA / TTY 1.800.462.7585

Disaster Recovery Centers: text DRC plus zip code to 43362

Do1thing: www.do1thing.com

Drop Box: www.dropbox.com

Emergency Management Institute: www.training.fema.gov/EMI
301.447.1000

Emergency 2.0: www.emergency202wiki.org

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Administration: www.fema.gov, 1.800.621.3362

FEMA Text messages: text PREPARE 43362 (4FEMA)

FEMA Independent Study Program
301.447.1200

Fire Museum of Memphis: www.firemuseum.com

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

Lightning Safety: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlgw.com
901.544.6549
Outages: 901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov

National Weather Service in Memphis
901.544.0399

Next of Kin Registry: www.nokr.org

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready America: www.ready.gov

Ready Business: www.ready.gov/business

Ready Kids: www.ready.gov/kids

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Road Conditions: Tennessee: 1.877.244.0065
Mississippi: 1.888.728.4218
Arkansas: 1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Shelby Cares (faith-based sheltering initiative)
Email Terry Donald @ Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelters, text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362

Storm Ready Program: www.stormready.noaa.gov

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tdot.state.tn.us

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tema.gov

United States Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Bug: www.weatherbug.com

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

EMERGENCY: call 911

Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director

1075 Mullins Station Rd

Memphis TN 38134

901.515.2525

www.staysafeshelby.us

- Know Your Risks
- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Stay Informed
- Be a Buddy

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness' mission is to provide administrative assistance to address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of Shelby County and the UASI region. The Office of Preparedness assists the partnering jurisdictions in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from all-hazards and threats. These threats and eventualities can be natural or man-made. The Office of Preparedness has a two-fold mission: grants and program administration. Within the scope of these missions, the Office of Preparedness integrates into the comprehensive public safety environment within Shelby County and the UASI Region. The TN Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) includes: in Tennessee, Shelby County, City of Memphis, City of Bartlett, City of Millington, City of Germantown, Town of Arlington, City of Lakeland, Town of Collierville, Tipton County, Fayette County, Lauderdale County; in Arkansas, Crittenden County and in Mississippi, Desoto County.